

## Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /088 W

----- 070065

R 071030Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1687

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

JCRC NKP THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJ: PW/MIAS -LAOS

REF:A. STATE 87044; B. TOKYO 5726;

C. VIENTIANE 3519; C. STATE 91307

1. EMBOFF MET WITH SAKAMOTO ON MAY 7.

2. SAKAMOTO APOLOGIZED FOR HAVING LITTLE INFORMATION ON AMERICAN POWS/MIAS IN LAOS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS HELD IN ONE AREA DURING HIS CONFINEMENT (TCHEPONE) AND SAW NO CAUCASIAN PRISONERS. HE DID SEE ONE CRASH SITE ENROUTE AND WAS TOLD THAT TWO AMERICAN PILOTS HAD BEEN CAPTURED. HE DID NOT KNOW DATE OF CRASH. NAMES OF PILOTS OR WHERE THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN. SAKAMOTO SAID THAT HE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER ABOUT THESE OR OTHER AMERICAN PRISONERS DURING HIS TIME IN PATHET LAO HANDS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT ATTITUDE OF PL IN REGARD TO RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND ACCOUNTING OF MISSING  
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AND DEAD, SAKAMOTO SAID THAT HE COULD DRAW NO GENERAL

CONCLUSIONS FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE; HE WAS CAPTURED AFTER CEASEFIRE, HIS IDENTITY AS A NEWSMAN WAS NEVER SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED, AND HE WAS CITIZEN OF NATION NOTE INVOLVED IN HOSTILITIES. AS SUCH HE SAID HE NEITHER FEARED FOR HIS LIFE NOR DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD BE RELEASED. SAKAMOTO SAID THAT PL ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICAN COMBATANTS CAPTURED BEFORE CEASEFIRE HAD PROBABLY BEEN MUCH MORE SEVERE.

4. SAKAMOTO VOLUNTEERED HIS OWN FEELING THAT EXTREME POVERTY OF AREA AND DEARTH OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY WESTERNERS USED TO SUBSTANTIAL DIET, TO SURVIVE FOR LONG PERIODS IN PL HANDS.

5. SAKAMOTO SAID THAT HE WOULD COMPILE ARTICLES HE HAD WRITTEN ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES (WHICH HE SAID APPEARED ONLY IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND NOT IN NATIONAL DAILIES) AND SEND THEM TO EMBASSY. HE CAUTIONED THAT THESE ARTICLES CONTAINED NO INFORMATION ON AMERICAN PRISONERS/MIAS.

6. COMMENT: SAKAMOTO WAS SOMEWHAT HESITANT ABOUT MEETING WITH EMBASSY AND EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS JOURNALIST WHO HAD WRITTEN ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AND HAD NO "SECRET" INFORMATION TO GIVE ABOUT PL ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN POWS/MIAS BEYOND THAT GIVEN ABOVE. SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MIA, POW RETURN, VISITS, JOURNALISTS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PW/MIAS -LAOS  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, LA, US, PATHET LAO, (SAKAMOTO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005